

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2063

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1&2  
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, IS, LE  
SUBJ: REPORT OF MEETING BETWEEN UNIFIL AND LEBANESE ARMY JULY  
29 TO DISCUSS LAF MOVE SOUTH.

BEGIN TEXT

1. ON 29 JULY 78 UNIFIL STAFF OFFICERS MET IN BEIRUT WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY CONCERNING THE MOVEMENT OF A LEBANESE TASK FORCE INTO THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS. THE PLANNED MOVEMENT OF THIS TASK FORCE, CONSISTING OF A BRIGADE HQ DETACHMENT, 3 RIFLE COMPANIES, AN AML (ARMORED CAR) COMPANY AND A BATTERY OF 122 MM HOWITZERS, WILL BE TO THE VICINITY OF TIBNIN. THE NAME OF THE TASK FORCE IS QUOTE FORCES OF THE SOUTH FRONT UNQUOTE COMMANDED BY LT COL ABDID SAAD. MOVEMENT IS TO BEGIN AT 0500 HOURS LT 31 JULY, ARRIVING IN KAUKABA FOR RENDEZVOUS WITH UNIFIL GUIDE AT 1000 HOURS LT SAME DAY. ARRIVAL IN TIBNIN SHOULD BE LATE AFTERNOON. ROUTE SELECTED BY THE TASK FORCES IS BEKAA VALLEY, KAUKABA, THROUGH THE  
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TOWN OF MARJAYOUN, AADEISSE, TAIBE, TAYR ZIBNA TO TIBNIN.

2. THE GENERAL AREA OF OPERATIONS FOR BATTALION IS BORDERED BY GRID REFERENCES 18652853 NORTH TO 18652910 NORTH-EAST TO 19052930 SOUTH TO 19132870 SOUTH-WEST TO 18972854 TO FIRST GRID REFERENCE.

3. THE MISSION OF THE TASK FORCE IS: AAA. TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND RESTORE LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SOUTH; BBB. CONTROL AND PREVENT ANY ARMED MOVEMENT INTO THE AREA ASSIGNED; CCC. TO COORDINATE WITH UNIFIL TO ACCOMPLISH THESE MISSIONS.

4. LEBANESE BATTALION WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO ARMY HQ, BEIRUT. AN UNMO TEAM WILL BE ASSIGNED TO BATTALION FOR COORDINATION. LEBANESE LO (MAJ MULLA), WITH DIRECT COMMO WITH BATTALION, WILL BE ASSIGNED TO UNIFIL HQ, NAQOURA.

5. IN DISCUSSIONS IT WAS STATED BY LEBANESE LOGISTICAL OFFICERS THAT THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO RESUPPLY THEMSELVES VIA SUPPLY ROUTE BACK THROUGH BEKAA VALLEY TO RAYAK AND THAT UNIFIL WOULD BE ASKED FOR RESUPPLY IF THIS ROUTE WERE CUT OFF FOR THEM.

6. IT APPEARS THAT THE MILITARY OPERATION WAS LOOSELY COORDINATED AND NOT THOROUGHLY PLANNED. EXAMPLE: PLAN WAS INITIALLY TO PLACE ONE COMPANY IN TAIBE, ONE COMPANY IN GANDURIYAH AND REMAINDER OF TASK FORCE IN TIBNIN. WHEN UNIFIL EXPLAINED THAT HADDAD'S FORCES WERE ON HIGH GROUND OVERLOOKING TAIBE, PLAN WAS CHANGED TO LOCATING IN GANDURIYAH AND TIBNIN THEN SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TWO MORE TIMES TILL AREA OF OPERATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE WAS DETERMINED. LEBANESE BATTALION COMMANDER HAS MADE NO RECONNAISSANCE OF AO.

7. THE TASK FORCE HQ WILL BE LOCATED IN TIBNIN. THERE WILL BE  
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SOME ADJUSTMENT OF IRISH BATTALION. HOWEVER, IRISH HQ AND MAINTENANCE COMPANY WILL NOT MOVE. THE BRIGADE COMMANDER OF THE TASK FORCE LIKED THE IDEA OF THE TWO HEADQUARTERS BEING IN THE SAME TOWN.

8. AS INDICATED IN REF CABLE ON ILMAC MEETING, SHOULD PLANNED MOVE OCCUR TOMORROW, 31 JUL 78, CHRISTIANS MAY OPPOSE MOVE THROUGH ENCLAVE BY FORCE. SHOULD SUCH OPPOSITION DEVELOP, I BELIEVE THAT LEBANESE FORCE SHOULD BE DEPLOYED IN NORBATT AND/OR NEPBATT AOS INITIALLY, AS ALTERNATIVE OF LEBANESE FORCE RETURNING BACK NORTH COULD BE DISASTROUS. END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

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